

CLAIMS:

1. A meal advice system for dieters each equipped with remote terminal means capable of sending information about a previous meal eaten and of receiving information about a next meal to be eaten, said system comprising:
 - a meal advice center having a server linked to a database and linked through a communication network to said remote terminal means to exchange the information about the previous and next meals,
 - said database including:
 - a dieter table storing, for each of the individual dieters, an identification code, a network address, and a prescribed nutrient amount for each of Food Groups into which foods are categorized according to the nutrients
 - a meal-food table storing the names of the meals and names of foods contained in the meal;
 - a food-nutrient table storing the names of the foods, a group code identifying each the Food Group into which the foods are classified, and a nutrient amount contained in per unit of the food,
 - said server including:
 - image data receiving means for receiving an image data of the previous meal transmitted from the remote terminal means;
 - meal analysis assisting means which provides the image data in addition to the food-nutrient table in order to assist analyzing the image data to determine the kinds of the foods contained in the previous meal, classifying the foods into the corresponding Food Groups, and calculating the nutrient amount for each of the Food Groups with reference to the food-nutrient table;

meal selecting means which compares the calculated nutrient amount for each Food Group with the prescribed nutrient amount from the dieter table for determining a deficient nutrient amount for each Food Group, and selects a plurality of next meals containing the foods compensating for the deficient nutrient amount for each Food Group with reference to the meal-food table and the food-nutrient table;

meal proposal means which proposes a menu listing the selected next meal or meals received from the meal selecting means to the remote terminal means over the communication network.

2. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said meal analysis assisting means is linked to an analyst terminal to provide the image data of the previous meal, the meal-food table, and the food-nutrient table so that an analyst operating said analyst terminal can analyze the previous meal and transmit the resulting meal analysis to the server for selection of the next meals.

3. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said food-nutrient table stores individual amounts of nutrient constituents in relation to the foods having the nutrient constituents so that the sum of the amounts of the nutrient constituents equals to the nutrient amount for each of the foods, and

said meal analysis assisting means assists to sum up the amount of the

nutrient constituents with reference to the food-nutrient table for obtaining the nutrient amount for each of the Food Groups.

5 4. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the remote terminal means is composed of a personal mobile terminal adapted to be carried by the dieter, and a meal assistant terminal adapted to be used by a meal assistant who serves the meal to the dieter,

10 said personal mobile terminal having a camera for taking the image of the previous meal, and a transmitter for sending the image, and

said meal assistant terminal having a data receiving means for receiving the menu from the server and displaying the menu.

15 5. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said image data receiving means is capable of receiving a comment by the dieter relating to the previous meal together with the image data of the previous meal, and

20 said meal analysis assisting means provides the comment for the analysis of the previous meal.

6. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein

25 said comment is superimposed on the image data which is a photo image of the previous meal.

7. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein

said comment is transmitted as a voice data attached to the image data
which is a photo image of the previous meal.

8. The system as set forth in claim 2,

said server further includes a meal verification means which is linked to an
advisor terminal for requesting verification of the selected next meals from an
advisor operating the advisor terminal,

said meal verification means providing the dieter table, the meal analysis,
and the selected next meals to the advisor terminal for assisting the
verification in consideration of the information about the dieter and the meal
analysis result, and

said meal verification means responding to the verification from the
advisor terminal to limit the selected next meals to those verified.

9. The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein

said analyst terminal and said advisor terminal are combined into a single
counselor terminal.

10. The system as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said database further includes a meal history table storing, with regard to each of the dieters, the names of the meals eaten by the dieter together with a date of the meal eaten,

said meal verification means providing the meal history table to the
5 advisor terminal for assisting the verification of the meals.

11. The system as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said database includes a magnification table storing a dieter code, the
10 name of the meal eaten by the dieter, the date of the meal eaten, and a
magnification of the meal as determined based upon the image data thereof in
relation to a standard size;

said meal analysis assisting means providing the magnification table to
the analyst terminal in order to assist re-analyzing the past meal in such a
15 manner as to multiply the amounts of the food contained in the past meal by
the magnification.

12. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said database further includes a meal history table storing, with regard to
20 each of the dieters, the names of the meals eaten by the dieter together with a
date of the meal eaten,

said meal proposal means comparing the next meals provided by the
meal selecting means with the meals stored in the meal history table and
25 having the date within a predetermined past period in order to extract the

meals not duplicating the meals in the predetermined past period, and presenting the menu of thus extracted meals.

5 13. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said database further includes a meal history table storing, with regard to each of the dieters, the names of the meals eaten by the dieter together with a date of the meal eaten,

10 said meal proposal means comparing the next meals provided by the meal selecting means with the meals which are stored in the meal history table and have date records within a predetermine time range around the same date of one year before, selecting the meals duplicating the meals occurring in said time range, sorting the selected meals in a descending order of frequency of the duplication, and presenting the menu of the next meals thus sorted.

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14. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

20 said database further includes a meal history table storing, with regard to each of the dieters, the names of the meals eaten by the dieter together with a date of the meal eaten,

said dieter table including a local code indicating one of predefined local regions to which the dieter belongs,

25 said meal proposal means comparing the next meals provided by the meal selecting means with the meals which are stored in the meal history table with regard to other dieters having the same local code and which have date

records within a predetermine time range around the same date of one year before, extracting the meals duplicating the meals occurring in the time range, sorting the extacted meals in a descending order of frequency of the duplication, and presenting the menu of the next meals thus sorted.

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15. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said database further includes a meal history table storing, with regard to each of the dieters, the names of the meals eaten by the dieter together with a date of the meal eaten,

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said dieter table including a local code indicating one of predefined local regions to which the dieter belongs,

said meal proposal means comparing the next meals provided by the meal selecting means with the meals which are stored in the meal history table with regard to the same dieter in a predetermined past period so as to extract the meals not duplicating the meals in the predetermined past period, and providing a set of thus extacted meals,

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said meal proposal means comparing the set of the extracted meals with the meals which are stored in the meal history table for the same dieter and which have date records within a predetermine time range around the same date of one year before, providing a first score to the extracted meals duplicating the meals occurring in the time range,

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said meal proposal means comparing the set of the extracted meals with the meals which are stored in the meal history table with regard to other dieters having the same local code and which have date records within a

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predetermine time range around the same date of one year before, providing a second score to the extracted meals duplicating the meals of the other dieters occurring in the time range, said second score having different points than the first score,

5 said meal proposal means counting the points given to the extracted meals and sorting the same in a descending order of the scored points, and presenting the menu of the next meals thus sorted.

10 16. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein
said first score has a higher point than the second score.

15 17. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein
said meal proposal means selects the predetermined number of the next meals having the higher points.

20 18. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein
said database further includes a meal history table storing, with regard to each of the dieters, the names of the meals eaten by the dieter together with a date record and a meal type indicating that the meal is eaten on which day and as which one of the breakfast, lunch, and dinner,
said meal analysis assisting means providing the meal history table in order to
25 assist to sum the nutrient amount for each Food Group with regard to the two

immediately previous meals eaten as the breakfast and the lunch, and said meal proposal means proposing the menu listing the next meals to be eaten as the dinner.

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19. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said database further includes a meal image table storing a meal code identifying the meal and a photo image of the meal,

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said meal proposal means relating the selected next meals to the photo image of the corresponding meal with reference to the meal image table and presenting the photo images together with the menu of the next meals.

20. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

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said meal analysis assisting means prepares an analysis report identifying the deficient nutrient amount of each Food Group with regard to the previous meal,

said server including a report means which provides the analysis report to the remote terminal means together with the menu of the next meals.

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21. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said database includes an analysis table storing a date of making the analysis in accordance with the meal analysis assisting means, a meal type indicating which one of the breakfast, lunch, and dinner corresponds to the

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previous meal analyzed and acknowledged to be eaten by the dieter in accordance with the menu, and the calculated nutrient amount of each Food Group for the meal,

said server including a report means which retrieves, from the analysis table, the nutrient amount of each Food Group with regard to previous meals eaten during a past predetermined time period, prepares an analysis report showing a chart of the nutrient amount of each Food Group taken during the past predetermined time period, and transmits the analysis report to the remote terminal means.

22. The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said database further includes a caterer table storing names and addresses of caterers, and list of meals available from each of the caterers, and

said server further including an agent means for appointing the caterer who can serve the selected next meals with reference to the caterer table and the meal-food table, prompting the remote terminal means to request whether or not to order the next meal from the appointed caterer, and placing the order to the caterer on behalf of the remote terminal means when so requested.

23. A meal advice system for dieters each equipped with a remote terminal means, said system comprising:

a meal advice center having a server linked to a database and linked through a communication network to said remote terminal means to exchange

the information about a meal,

said database including:

a dieter table storing, for each of the individual dieters, an identification code, a network address, and a prescribed nutrient amount for each of Food

5 Groups into which foods are categorized according to the nutrients

a meal-food table storing the names of the meals and names of foods contained in the meals;

a food-nutrient table storing the names of the foods, a group code identifying each Food Group into which the foods are classified, and a nutrient
10 amount contained in per unit of the food,

said server including:

meal selecting means which compares a nutrient amount obtained by analysis of a previous meal eaten by the dieter for each Food Group, with the prescribed nutrient amount given from the dieter table for determining a
15 deficient nutrient amount for each Food Group, and selects a plurality of next meals containing the foods compensating for the deficient nutrient amount for each Food Group with reference to the meal-food table and the food-nutrient table; and

meal proposal means which proposes a menu listing the selected next
20 meal or meals received from the meal selecting means to the remote terminal means over the communication network.